

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A parts ordering system comprising:

a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, ~~wherein the first, second and third domains each include:~~

wherein the first domain includes ordering means for transferring an order to the second domain,

wherein the second domain includes

receiving means for receiving an order from the first domain ~~one of the domains~~, the received order being an order for a part of a product to be produced by the production line;

judging means for judging a kind of the order;

machining planning means for devising a machining plan based upon the judged order;

expanding means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan;

order planning means for generating parts order information to be orders placed based on each component part information expanded by said expanding means and a pre-determined minimum order number data of each component part to be required to produce the product stored in a database, and

communication means for communicating the parts order information generated by said order planning means to the third domain ~~another of the domains~~,

~~wherein a plurality of connections between the first, second and third domains are made possible on a network in a tree structure~~

wherein the third domain includes parts order information receiving means for receiving the parts order information from the second domain.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein said receiving means of the second domain has means for making a comparison with data, which has been retained in a database, to determine whether an order is a new order, a modified order or re-transmission of the same order.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein said machining planning means of the second domain has means for comparing a designated delivery date of a received order and planned production date retained in a database, and means for scheduling an expected production date based upon results of the comparison.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein said expanding means of the second domain has means for performing expansion in units of individual parts constructing a manufactured product based upon a received order, and means for calculating the number of parts.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein said order planning means of the second domain has means for comparing a number of parts contained in inventory and a number of parts required, and means for calculating minimum units of an order based upon results of the comparison.

Claims 7-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein the second domain further comprises:

stopping means for comparing the amount of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database and a required amount of specific parts obtained by said expanding means, and stopping the communication of a parts order to the third domain in a case where the amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed amount, than the required amount of specific parts.

Claim 12-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, deliver and receive orders, ~~the method implemented at each of the first, second and third domains~~ comprising:

a transferring step at which the first domain transfers an order to the second domain;

a receiving step at which the second domain receives ~~of receiving~~ an order from the first domain ~~one of the domains~~, the received order being an order for a part of a product to be produced by the production line;

a judging step at which the second domain judges ~~of judging~~ a kind of the order;

a machining planning step at which the second domain devises ~~of devising~~ a machining plan based upon the judged order;

an expanding step at which the second domain expands ~~of expanding~~, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan;

an order planning step at which the second domain generates ~~of generating~~ parts order information to be orders placed based on each component part information expanded in said expanding step and a pre-determined minimum order number data of each component part to be required to produce the product stored in a database, wherein the pre-determined minimum order number is the minimum number of parts purchased decided in advance between an ordering side and delivery side owing to limitations defined by a number of packages; and

a communication step at which the second domain communicates ~~of communicating~~ the parts order information generated by said order planning means to the third domain ~~another of the domains;~~ and

~~wherein the pre-determined minimum order number is the minimum number of parts purchased decided in advance between an ordering side and delivery side owing to limitations defined by a number of packages,~~

~~wherein a plurality of connections between the first, second and third domains are made possible on a network in a tree structure~~

a parts order information receiving step at which the third domain receives the parts order information from the second domain.

Claims 22-49 (Canceled).